GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
WHITE PAPER ON SETHUSAMUNDRAM PROJECT
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring out a White Paper on the status of the Sethusamundram Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the projects; and

(c) if not, the stand of Union Government on the said project?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c): The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project was approved by the Government in May, 2005 and is currently under implementation. However, pursuant to orders passed by the Supreme Court on 31.8.2007 and 14.9.2007, dredging work at Adam's Bridge area has been suspended. Further, pursuant to the submissions made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the Government Counsel on 14.9.2007 in respect of certain transferred cases and writ petitions relating to the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project, the Government constituted a Committee consisting of eminent persons on 5.10.2007 with the terms of reference to invite objections & suggestions from all concerned including the writ petitioners having interest in the subject matter and to consider all suggestions/proposals/documents after giving them a personal hearing. The Committee has submitted its report on 29.11.2007. The report of the Committee is under process.